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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 USBERLIN 02344

DEPT FOR EUR/CE, BONN FOR JEFF GALLUP

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: WSB, BQG, GC, GE
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF BERLIN PRESS

. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARY PREPARED EACH DAY BY U.S. MISSION BERLIN. IT INCLUDES REPORTS FROM NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN WEST BERLIN AND FROM THE MAJOR EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS. MISSION BERLIN TRANSMITS THIS SUMMARY FOR THE SPECIAL USE OF EMBASSY BONN AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES WHO ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN ON A DAILY BASIS. IT IS NOT PART OF THE DAILY MEDIA REPORT SERIES WHICH IS PRODUCED BY EMBASSY BONN FOR ALL OF WEST GERMANY, INCLUDING WEST BERLIN.

REVIEW - WEST PRESS

. TODAY'S TOP STORY IS THE SOVIET UNION'S BLOCKING OF AN FRG-SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT BY TRYING TO SPLIT
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OFF BERLIN, WITH HOPE THAT FRG PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER, WHO IS TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW TODAY, WILL HELP (DIE WELT). DIE WELT ALSO FRONTPAGES THE MEETING BETWEEN FRG CHANCELLOR KOHL AND FRENCH PREMIER CHIRAC TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J GEHRON
DATE/CASE ID: 22 DEC 2004 200403871

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MARK THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "RECONCILIATION MASS" WITH ADENAUER AND DE GAULLE AT THE CATHEDRAL OF REIMS; CSU BUNDESTAG PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADER THEO WAIGEL'S CRITICISM OF WEST GERMAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT HEEREMAN'S REACTION TO THE EC AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES; AND CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG CAUCUS SPOKESMAN ON GERMAN POLICY EDUARD LINTNER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE GDR SHOULD INCREASE ITS HARD CURRENCY REVENUES BY CREATING TOURISM CENTERS FOR WEST GERMANS IN THE THURINGIAN FOREST AND IN MECKLENBURG.
WEST BERLIN DAILIES ALSO REPORT:

. WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT CIRCLES ARE ALERTED BY UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY (USIA) PUBLIC OPINION POLLS CONFIRMING REPORTS THAT 63 OF THE WEST EUROPEANS REGARD SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV AND ONLY 13 PRESIDENT REAGAN AS THE INITIATOR OF RECENT PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT EFFORTS. THE RESULTS FOR THE FRG ARE 72 TO 9 (BERLINER MORGENPOST ON SUNDAY).

. THE EAST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY ADN ON FRIDAY CONFIRMED WESTERN REPORTS THAT EAST GERMANS UNDER A CERTAIN AGE WHO ARE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE WEST CAN AS OF JULY 1 EXCHANGE ONLY 15 MARKS AT A 1:1 RATE, RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUSLY ALLOWED MAXIMUM OF 70 MARKS. GDR PENSIONERS HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO EXCHANGE MORE THAN 15 MARKS (BERLINER MORGENPOST MAIN HEADLINE ON SATURDAY).

. BERLIN MAYOR DIEPGEN DESCRIBED THE GDR STEP AS A
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SETBACK IN EFFORTS TO ATTAIN MORE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL FOR EAST GERMANS. IN AN SFB INTERVIEW, DIEPGEN SAID THAT THE FRG AND GDR SHOULD FIND WAYS TO OVERCOME CURRENCY PROBLEMS AND MAINTAIN A STABLE FLOW OF VISITORS FROM THE EAST. DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1987, SOME 216,250 EAST GERMANS BELOW RETIREMENT AGE VISITED THE WEST (DIE WELT; DER TAGESSPIEGEL MAIN HEADLINE ON SUNDAY).

. FORMER BERLIN INTERIOR SENATOR HEINRICH LUMMER STAGED A ONE-MAN DEMONSTRATION AT THE GLIENICKE BRIDGE SUNDAY TO ALLOW WEST GERMANS TO VISIT THE GDR BY BICYCLE (BILDZEITUNG, BZ ET AL).

. U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY BENNETT IS EXPECTED TO

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VISIT BERLIN ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SATURDAY).

. AMERICAN POLITICIANS OF THE STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION (SLLF) HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING OUTSIDE THE U.S. IN BERLIN (VOLKSBLATT ON SATURDAY).

. 250 YOUNG AMERICANS, GUESTS OF THE PRIVATELY SPONSORED "BRIDGE OF YOUTH," DEPARTED FROM TEGEL AIRPORT ON SUNDAY. A HIGH POINT OF THEIR 12-DAY VISIT WAS A ROCK CONCERT ON JULY 4 AT THE OPEN-AIR WALDBUEHNE STARRING GEORGE BENSON AND CHUCK BERRY. SUBSEQUENTLY U.S. AMBASSADOR RICHARD BURT GAVE A RECEPTION. THE YOUNG AMERICANS WILL NOW BE "AMBASSADORS FOR BERLIN" IN THEIR VARIOUS HOME STATES (BZ ET AL).

. AN ESTIMATED 3,000 SPECTATORS WATCHED THE JULY 4TH PARADE IN LICHTERFELDE TO MARK AMERICA'S 211TH

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INDEPENDENCE DAY (DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SUNDAY).

. THE SOVIET UNION REJECTED AS A PROVOCATION THE PROPOSAL TO HOLD OLYMPIC GAMES IN BERLIN. SOVIET NOC DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GAVRILIN, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "SOVIETSKY SPORT," SAID WEST BERLIN HAS A SPECIAL STATUS AND EXTENDING THE FRG NOC'S RIGHTS TO THE CITY WOULD CONSTITUTE A "GROSS VIOLATION" OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SUNDAY).

. ROCK STAR MADONNA IS EXPECTED TO SING IN FRONT OF THE REICHSTAG IN MID-AUGUST. THE SENAT EXPECTS POSSIBLE PROBLEMS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE WALL (WELT AM SONNTAG).

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. AT THE BERLIN SPD PARTY CONFERENCE, BONN SPD CHAIRMAN HANS-JOCHEN VOGEL ON SUNDAY AGAIN STRONGLY CRITICIZED EAST BERLIN'S TREATMENT OF WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS REPORTING ON YOUNG EAST GERMANS WHO TRIED TO LISTEN TO A ROCK CONCERT IN WEST BERLIN NEAR THE BRANDENBURG GATE ON PENTACOST. HE SAID THE INCIDENTS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE "ABNORMALITY OF THE WALL" (DIE WELT ET AL).

. VOGEL ALSO CRITICIZED U.S. MINISTER KORNBLUM FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING TO DISCOURAGE FRG POLITICIANS FROM VISITING GDR CHIEF HONECKER (BERLINER MORGENPOST FRONTPAGE ON SATURDAY).

. BERLIN SPD CHAIRMAN MOMPER, AT LAST WEEKEND'S PARTY CONFERENCE, CALLED ON THE AL TO ALSO AGREE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FRG LAW LIFTING RENT CONTROLS IN THE CITY TO PROVE THAT IT IS "FIT FOR A COALITION." MOMPER STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE SCHOENEBERG AND ZEHLENDORF SPD

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DISTRICT GROUPS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ANTI-REAGAN DEMONSTRATION. THE PARTY CONFERENCE ADVOCATED THE INTRODUCTION OF SUFFRAGE FOR FOREIGN WORKERS WHO HAVE LIVED IN GERMANY FOR FIVE YEARS AND DUAL NATIONALITY AFTER EIGHT YEARS (BERLINER MORGENPOST, VOLKSBLATT MAIN HEADLINE ON SUNDAY).

. FRG PRESIDENT VON WEIZSAECKER'S GUESTS AT A GARDEN PARTY TO MARK THE CITY'S 750TH JUBILEE INCLUDED THE WESTERN CITY COMMANDANTS, ASPEN INSTITUTE DIRECTOR STONE, AND YOUNG AMERICANS OF THE "BRIDGE OF YOUTH" (BZ; DER TAGESSPIEGEL ON SUNDAY).

. THE SENAT EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT THE ALLIED AIR

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ATTACHES WILL APPROVE THE OPERATION OF AN AMBULANCE HELICOPTER IN BERLIN THIS MONTH (BERLINER MORGENPOST ON SUNDAY).

. FEDERAL AFFAIRS SENATOR RUPERT SCHOLZ ADVOCATED SPEEDY IMPROVEMENTS IN FRG-BERLIN RAILROAD TRANSIT TRAFFIC (BERLINER MORGENPOST INTERVIEW ON SUNDAY).

. THE DAUGHTER OF U.S. ROCK STAR DEAN READ, RAMONA, HAS SUED THE GDR FOR OVER $2 MILLION, BECAUSE SHE BELIEVES HE WAS MURDERED WHEN HE WANTED TO RETURN TO THE U.S. (MOST PAPERS ON SATURDAY).

REVIEW - EAST PRESS

. ALL MONDAY PAPERS FILL THEIR FRONTPAGES AS WELL AS UP TO FOUR INSIDE PAGES WITH REPORTS ON WHAT WAS CALLED : "THE LARGEST POPULAR FEST SO FAR" IN BERLIN, I.E. THE HISTORICAL EAST BERLIN PARADE ON SATURDAY WITH A THEME OF "NUCLEAR-FREE INTO THE NEW CENTURY". THE HEADLINE IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND READS: "SOME 700,000 SEE GIANT CORSO OF JOY OF LIFE AND WILL FOR PEACE -- FOR FIVE HOURS, COLORFUL SCENES PAST AND PRESENT PARADING FROM BRANDENBURG GATE ... THROUGH DOWNTOWN AREA, ENTHUSIASTICALLY WATCHED BY ERICH HONECKER... AND INTERNATIONAL GUESTS -- 40,000 PARTICIPANTS FROM BERLIN AND ALL GDR DISTRICTS."

MORE NEWS:

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. THE "SOVIET-U.S. PEACE MARCH" FROM LENINGRAD TO MOSCOW ENDED LAST WEEKEND AT THE PAN-UNION EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW. SPEAKERS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES CONFIRMED THEIR

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DETERMINATION TO STRIVE FOR DISARMAMENT, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. DURING THE MARCH, WHICH LASTED 20 DAYS, SOME 400 PARTICIPANTS COVERED CA. 400 MILES (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND),

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. ON JULY 4, ALL PAPERS CARRIED THE 1987 FIRST HALF-YEAR BALANCE OF THE GDR ECONOMY, NOTING THAT THE GROWTH RATE HAS FURTHER INCREASED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE. ALL PAPERS ALSO FRONTPAGED HONECKER'S CABLE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY TO U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, SAYING: "PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND COOPERATION ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS OF OUR ERA. WE CAN RENDER AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS BY THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF GDR-U.S. RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGN
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EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE AND MUTUAL BENEFIT." THE PAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT AN SED DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE SPD CAUCUS OF THE LOWER SAXONY PARLIAMENT IN HANOVER, FRG, FRIDAY.

. ON JULY 3, ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGED A STATEMENT BY A GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN ON THE FRG-STATIONED PERSHING-1A MISSILES, URGING THE FRG NOT TO DISTURB DISARMAMENT CHANCES BY ESTABLISHING NEW HINDRANCES. IN ADDITION, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND FRONTPAGED A TASS STATEMENT WHICH REFERRED TO A MILITARY BULLETIN OF THE "NOVOSTI" PRESS AGENCY. SAID TASS: "THE STUBBORN EFFORTS FOR MAINTAINING THE PERSHING-1A HIDE FAR-REACHING PLANS, LINKED WITH THE U.S. INTENTION TO ARBITRARILY VIOLATE THE REGIME OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND THUS TO CREATE A PRECEDENCE CASE FOR AN 'EXTENDED INTERPRETATION' OF THE NEW TREATIES WITH THE USSR, WHICH HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN SIGNED YET...." IN ADDITION, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND PUBLISHED AN ADN DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW REGARDING A SOVIET SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE GENEVA TALKS, STATING THAT "THE U.S. CONSTANTLY ESTABLISHES NEW HINDRANCES TO PROGRESS."

COMMENTARY - WEST PRESS

THE FRG AND EUROPEAN SECURITY

. THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL IN A FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL BY JOACHIM BOELKE ON SUNDAY SAYS: "THE IDEA HAS COME UP OF INTENSIFYING (GERMAN) MILITARY COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, GOING AS FAR AS MODELS OF INTEGRATION, BECAUSE ONE PRESUMES THAT FRANCE IS BEST PREPARED TO LISTEN TO AND MEET GERMAN CONCERNS. BUT
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REALISM NEEDS TO BE APPLIED HERE. DESPITE ALL DESIRABLE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE IN SECURITY POLICY, WE SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT PARIS WOULD TAKE STEPS THAT SUPPORT THE POLITICALLY DESTABILIZING IMPRESSION THAT ONE MUST CREATE A REPLACEMENT FOR A LACK OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, OR TO GIVE AMERICA THE IMPRESSION THAT EUROPE BELIEVES IN THE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING THE AMERICAN PRESENCE ON THE CONTINENT.

. "THE MOST DANGEROUS IDEA, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF ALLIES WHO NEGLECT GERMAN CONCERNS WOULD BE
-----.
A REASON FOR A GERMAN SPECIAL PATH. IN OTHER WORDS, GERMAN SPECIAL INTERESTS SHOULD NOW BE INTRODUCED IN THE GAME. THIS SPECIAL PATH, BY NATURE, COULD ONLY LEAD TO MOSCOW. BUT HERE AGAIN IT IS AN ILLUSION TO THINK THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCUSSION ON DISARMAMENT, ONE COULD MAKE GERMAN REUNIFICATION A TOPIC.

. "IT IS, HOWEVER, SURE THAT FAR-REACHING IMPROVEMENTS IN EUROPEAN EAST-WEST RELATIONS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A NUMBER OF POLITICAL STEPS IN ADDITION TO DISARMAMENT MEASURES, WOULD EVENTUALLY ALSO BRING UP THE GERMAN QUESTION. ONE WOULD THEN HAVE TO ASK THE QUESTION OF HOW THE EAST AND WEST REALLY IMAGINE EUROPE TO BE IN THE FUTURE. THIS POINT HAS NOT ARRIVED THOUGH. MOREOVER, THE THE IMPRESSION THE GERMANS ARE SEEKING AN ISOLATED SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM, INDEPENDENT OF THE PRESENT INTERESTS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS, SHOULD DEEPEN DISTRUST IN GERMANY IN GENERAL AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN PARTICULAR. AT ANY RATE, IT IS STRANGE HOW TIME AND AGAIN GERMAN POLITICIANS, BY BEING IRRATIONAL, DEPARTS FROM THE PATH OF WORKING TOWARD REALIZING GERMAN

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INTERESTS WITH PATIENCE AND USING THE FRG INFLUENCE, DESPITE ALL ITS DISADVENTAGES, RESPONSIBLY AND APPROPRIATELY. IT IS NOT VERY SURPRISING THAT THE NATIONAL-CONSERVATIVE CAMP, WITH ITS IDEAS REGARDING A GERMAN SPECIAL PATH, MEETS WITH LEFT-WING CIRCLES, WHERE SUCH IDEAS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RAMPANT."

SPD CRITICISM AT U.S. MINISTER KORNBLUM

. THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST, REJECTING CRITICISM AT U.S. MINISTER KORNBLUM, IN A PAGE-TWO EDITORIAL ON JULY 4 SAYS: "INTELLECTUAL BRILLIANCE CAN SUDDENLY TURN INTO POLITICAL FOLLY. THIS HAS BEEN DISMALLY DEMONSTRATED BY SPD CHAIRMAN VOGEL. HE CRITICIZES MAYOR DIEPGEN FOR NOT ATTENDING HONECKER'S
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STATE CEREMONY (TO MARK BERLIN'S 750TH ANNIVERSARY) AND THEREBY NOT RECOGNIZING EAST BERLIN AS THE 'CAPITAL OF THE GDR.'

. "IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT VOGEL CHARGES THE MAYOR WITH LACKING THE SOVEREIGNTY WHICH RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER DEMONSTRATED VIS-A-VIS THE PROTECTIVE POWERS WHEN VISITING HONECKER IN EAST BERLIN IN 1983. WHAT VOGEL NEGLIGENTLY COMMENDS WAS A FAIRLY HEAVY-HANDED 'PUSHING OVER' OF THE WESTERN ALLIED PROTECTIVE POWERS AT THAT TIME.

. "DOES BUNDESTAG BERLIN DEPUTY VOGEL NOT KNOW THE SITUATION IN AND AROUND BERLIN? HAS HE FORGOTTEN HOW LIFE-SUSTAINING THE FOUR POWER STATUS OF THE CITY IS? WHY DOES HE FAN THE VARIOUS ANTI-AMERICAN FIRES BY REPRIMANDING AMERICAN MINISTER KORNBLUM'S CRITICISM OF WEST GERMAN PREMIERS WHO FLOCK TO HONECKER'S DOORSTEP? VOGEL FOLLOWS THE OLD FALSE TEACHING THAT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS COULD LURE THE SED REGIME INTO HUMANITARIAN GESTURES."

COMMENTARY - EAST PRESS

REAGAN AND CHIRAC IN WEST BERLIN: DOWN WITH THE WALL

. THE EAST GERMAN CDU ORGAN NEUE ZEIT ON JULY 6 CARRIES ON PAGE TWO A TASS COMMENTARY BY YURI KORNILOV WHO SAID THAT, AT THE RECEPTION GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY THE WEST BERLIN SENAT, FRENCH PREMIER JACQUES CHIRAC "LAUNCHED ATTACKS AGAINST THE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY OF THE USSR AND THE GDR AND PLEADED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE PROTECTIVE INSTALLATIONS AT THE GDR FRONTIER.... THE STATEMENT BY MONSIEUR CHIRAC ALMOST
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EXACTLY REPEATS THE RECENT 'LAMENT AT THE WALL' OF U.S. PRESIDENT REAGAN, WHO IN BERLIN (WEST) EXERCIZED ANTI-SOCIALIST INVENTIONS AND LOUDLY CALLED FOR 'OPENING THE DOOR;' I.E., FOR ELIMINATING THE ANTI-FASCIST PROTECTIVE RAMPART AND FOR DESTROYING THE FRONTIER WHICH PROTECTS GDR SOVEREIGNTY.

. "THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS OF NUMEROUS COUNTRIES JUSTIFIABLY REMARKED ON THE SPEECH OF RONALD REAGAN, WHO HAD APPEARED AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE POLICY OF STRENGTH

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AND OF THE DISCREDITATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN THE SPIRIT OF THE COLD WAR, THAT HE IGNORED THE GENERALLY KNOWN FACT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BORDER INSTALLATIONS IN BERLIN HAD BECOME NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE POLICY OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES. THEIR POLICY HAD INTENDED TO USE BERLIN (WEST) AS 'OUTPOST CITY' AND TO HARM THE GDR. THE HYPOCRITICAL TEARS SHED BY THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE MERELY SERVE THE GOAL OF DISTURBING THE RELATIVE CALM ABOUT BERLIN (WEST) AND OF ENCOURAGING REVANCHIST CIRCLES IN THE FRG, WHO DEMAND A RESTRUCTURING OF EUROPEAN BORDERS.

. "ONE SHOULD THINK THAT EVERYTHING WAS CLEAR. IT SEEMED SO, TOO. BUT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S DOUBTFUL POLITICAL 'LAURELS' DID NOT LEAVE THE FRENCH PREMIER IN PEACE. ON HIS VISIT TO BERLIN (WEST) HE HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TO REPEAT THE SAME PROVOCATIVE REMARKS THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF HAD MADE. AS A POPULAR GERMAN SAYING HAS IT: 'LIKE THE MASTER SO THE SERVANT.'"

THE PERSHING-1A MISSILES IN EUROPE

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FOUR IN A COMMENTARY ON THE SOVIET-U.S. TALKS ON THE INFS IN EUROPE REMARKED: "IT IS NOT CLEAR RIGHT NOW WHAT WASHINGTON TRULY WANTS: THE ACTUAL ELIMINATION OF ALL INFS WITHOUT ANY IFS, ANDS OR BUTS, OR THE PREVENTION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE INTENTION OF EXCLUDING THE PERSHING-1A MISSILES (WHICH THREATEN THE GDR, THE CSSR AND POLAND) FROM THE ZERO OPTION. THE U.S. ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE PERSHING-1A MISSILES FROM THE GENEVA NEGOTIATING TABLE SEVERELY COMPLICATES THE SITUATION...." KORNBLUM

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